



Case Docket No. _____

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Application No. 10/020,739

Examiner: Douglas Watts

Art Unit 3724

Inventor: Michael Miller

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For: IMPROVED UNIVERSAL FORK

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

- 5 *B1*
1. **(currently amended)** An improved universal fork comprising:
 - a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in diameter and circumference along its length toward the back end, where said handle shaft also has a front end that is joined on its front portion to a fork head;
 - b. a fork head having inner and outer tines, where said outer tines define curved outer edges;
 - c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a deformation of the handle shaft at the point along the length of the handle on the central handle shaft, where the handle is joined to the ~~fork head~~, where said finger platform defines an enlarged flat side surface against which a person's forefinger is able to press against.
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2. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the sides of the handle and finger platform flat areas are symmetrical to each other.
 3. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the fork head comprises outer tines that form sides of the fork head which are symmetrical to each other.
 4. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the sides of the handle and finger sides are symmetrical to each other.
 5. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved universal fork is constructed out of metal.
 6. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved universal fork is constructed out of plastic.
 7. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved universal fork is constructed out of resin.

8. **(currently amended)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1,

having:

- a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in diameter and circumference along its length toward the back end, where said handle shaft also has a front end that is joined on its front portion to a fork head;
- b. in which the fork head comprises inner tines and outer tines, and where the inner tines have angled sharpened ends, with the end portions of the inner tines having a decreased circumference, so that the tips will break off when a shearing stress is applied to them;
- c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a deformation of the handle shaft at the point along the length of the handle prior to the defined fork head, ~~where the handle is joined to the fork head,~~ where said finger platform defines an enlarged flat side surface against which a person's forefinger is able to press against.

9. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tines define an unsharpened dull edge.

10. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tines define a blade edge.
11. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tines define a serrated edge.
- 5 12. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a serrated edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.
- 10 13. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a dull edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.
14. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a dull edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.
- 15 15. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a serrated edge.
16. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a dull edge.
17. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a sharpened blade edge.

18. **(original)** An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tine defines an outer edge that has a portion of the edge defined as a serrated edge.

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